

• **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (canceled).

15. (New) A method for operating an actuator having a capacitative element, an ohmic resistance connected in parallel with the capacitative element, and a value of the ohmic resistance configured to be sensed at specific points in time, the method comprising:

monitoring a correct functioning of the ohmic resistance; and
outputting a fault signal upon detection of a malfunction.

16. (New) The method of claim 15 further comprising:

comparing the sensed value of the ohmic resistance with a predetermined limit value.

17. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the value of the ohmic resistance is sensed at least one of during a startup phase of a control unit with which the capacitative element is activated and during a shutdown phase of the control unit when the control unit is being switched off.

18. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the capacitative element is used in an injector of an internal combustion engine, and the value of the ohmic resistance is sensed during a coasting mode of the internal combustion engine.

19. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

monitoring a correct functioning of the capacitative element.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

outputting a first fault signal one of:

if it is determined that the ohmic resistance is functioning correctly and the capacitative element is not functioning correctly; and
if it is determined that the capacitative element is functioning correctly

and the ohmic resistance is not functioning correctly.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the capacitive element is used in an injector of an internal combustion engine, and the first fault signal causes a reduction in the maximum permitted torque of the internal combustion engine.

22. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising:
outputting a second fault signal if it is determined that the ohmic resistance and the capacitive element are not functioning correctly.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the capacitive element is used in an injector of an internal combustion engine, and the second fault signal causes at least one of an affected cylinder to be shut off, a fuel pressure to be reduced, and the internal combustion engine to be shut down.

24. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein at least one of the first fault signal and the second fault signal results in at least one of an input into a fault memory and a triggering of an alarm signal.

25. (New) A computer-readable storage medium for storing a computer program that is executable on a computer and controlling a method to operate an actuator having a capacitive element, an ohmic resistance connected in parallel with the capacitive element, and a value of the ohmic resistance configured to be sensed at specific points in time, the method comprising:

monitoring a correct functioning of the ohmic resistance; and
outputting a fault signal upon detection of a malfunction.

26. (New) The computer program of claim 25, wherein the computer program is storable on a memory of the computer.

27. (New) The computer program of claim 25, wherein the computer program is storable on a flash memory.

28. (New) A control unit using at least one of an open-loop control and a closed-loop

control for operating a positioner having a capacitative element, an ohmic resistance connected in parallel with the capacitative element, and a value of the ohmic resistance configured to be sensed at specific points in time, comprising:

a memory to store a computer program for controlling a method to operate the positioner, the method including:

monitoring a correct functioning of the ohmic resistance; and
outputting a fault signal upon detection of a malfunction.

29. (New) An internal combustion engine, comprising:

a combustion chamber;

at least one injector including an actuator having a capacitative element and an ohmic resistance connected in parallel with the capacitative element; and

a control device using at least one of an open-loop control and a closed-loop control to control the actuator, monitor a correct functioning of the ohmic resistance, and output a fault signal upon detection of a malfunction.